

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the Claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 47. (Canceled)

48. (New) A system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising:

a transmitter subsystem for enrolling biometric signatures into a database and for providing an accessibility attribute if a legitimate biometric signal is received; and

a receiver sub-system for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon said accessibility attribute.

49. (New) A transmitter sub-system adapted for operation in a system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system further including a receiver sub-system for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon an accessibility attribute received from the transmitter sub-system; wherein the a transmitter subsystem comprises:

means for enrolling biometric signatures into a database; and

means for providing the accessibility attribute if a legitimate biometric signal is received.

50. (New) A method of enrolling, by a transmitter sub-system, biometric signatures into a database of biometric signatures in a system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising the transmitter sub-system and a receiver sub-system for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon an accessibility attribute received from the transmitter sub-system; said method comprising the steps of:

storing a biometric signal received by the transmitter sub-system in the database as an administrator signature; and

enabling administrative processing of information stored in the database if a biometric signal matching the stored administrator signature is received by the transmitter.

51. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for directing a processor to execute a method for enrolling, by a transmitter sub-system, biometric signatures into a database of biometric signatures in a system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising the transmitter sub-system and a receiver sub-system for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon an accessibility attribute received from the transmitter sub-system; said program comprising:

code for storing a biometric signal received by the transmitter sub-system in the database as an administrator signature; and

code for enabling administrative processing of information stored in the database if a biometric signal matching the stored administrator signature is received by the transmitter.

52. (New) A system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising:

- a database of biometric signatures;

- a transmitter subsystem comprising:

 - a biometric sensor for receiving a biometric signal;

 - means for matching the biometric signal against members of the database of biometric signatures to thereby output an accessibility attribute;

 - means for emitting a secure access signal conveying information dependent upon said accessibility attribute; and

 - means for enrolling biometric signatures into the database; and

- a receiver sub-system comprising;

 - means for receiving the transmitted secure access signal; and

 - means for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon said information.

53. (New) A system according to claim 5, wherein the means for enrolling biometric signatures comprises:

- means for determining if the database of biometric signatures is empty; and

- means for storing a biometric signal received by the biometric sensor in the database as an administrator signature if the database of biometric signatures is empty.

54. (New) A system according to claim 6, wherein the means for enrolling biometric signatures further comprises means for, if an administrator signature has been stored in the database, classifying a legitimate sequence of biometric signals, each matching the administrator signature, as control information.

55. (New) A system according to claim 7, wherein the means for enrolling biometric signatures further comprises means for determining if said sequence of biometric signals is legitimate dependent upon whether at least one of the number and duration of the signals are appropriate, and whether the signals are received within a predetermined time.

56. (New) A system according to claim 7, wherein the means for enrolling biometric signatures further comprises means for amending information stored in the database depending upon the control information.

57. (New) A system according to claim 7, wherein the means for enrolling biometric signatures further comprises means for classifying a subsequent biometric signal as one of an administrator signature and an ordinary signature depending upon the control information.

58. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the transmitter sub-system is incorporated into at least one of (a) a remote control module comprising at least one of a key fob and a mobile communication device, and (b) an enclosure mounted next to the controlled item.

59. (New) A system according to claim 6 further comprising means for providing a feedback signal for directing input of the control information.

60. (New) A system according to claim 12, wherein the means for providing the feedback signal comprises at least one of a visual indicator and an audio indicator.

61. (New) A transmitter subsystem adapted for operating in a system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising a database of biometric signatures, said transmitter subsystem, and a receiver sub-system comprising means for receiving a transmitted secure access signal, and means for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon information in said secure access signal, said transmitter sub-system comprising:

a biometric sensor for receiving a biometric signal;

means for emitting a secure access signal capable of granting access to the controlled item; and

means for enrolling said biometric signatures into the database.

62. (New) A transmitter sub-system according to claim 14, wherein the means for enrolling said biometric signatures into the database comprises:

means for storing the biometric signal received by the biometric sensor in the database as an administrator signature if the database of biometric signatures is empty;

means for, if an administrator signature has been stored in the database, classifying a legitimate sequence of biometric signals, each matching the administrator signature, as control information; and

means for performing at least one of (a) amending information stored in the database depending upon the control information, and (b) classifying a subsequent biometric signal as one of an administrator signature and an ordinary signature depending upon the control information.

63. (New) A method of enrolling, by a transmitter sub-system, biometric signatures into a database of biometric signatures in a system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising (a) said database of biometric signatures, (b) the transmitter subsystem comprising a biometric sensor for receiving a biometric signal, means for emitting a secure access signal capable of granting access to the controlled item and means for enrolling said biometric signatures into the database, and (c) a receiver sub-system comprising means for receiving the transmitted secure access signal, and means for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon information in said secure access signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a biometric signal;

storing the biometric signal received by the biometric sensor in the database as an administrator signature if the database of biometric signatures is empty;

if an administrator signature has been stored in the database, classifying a legitimate sequence of biometric signals, each matching the administrator signature, as control information; and

performing at least one of (a) amending information stored in the database depending upon the control information, and (b) classifying a subsequent biometric signal as one of an administrator signature and an ordinary signature depending upon the control information.

64. (New) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for directing a processor to execute a method for enrolling, by a transmitter sub-system, biometric signatures into a database of biometric signatures in a system for providing secure access to a controlled item, the system comprising (a) said database of biometric signatures, (b) said transmitter subsystem comprising a biometric sensor for receiving a biometric signal, means for emitting a secure access signal capable of granting access to the controlled item and means for enrolling said biometric signatures into the database, and (c) a receiver sub-system comprising means for receiving the transmitted secure access signal, and means for providing access to the controlled item dependent upon information in said secure access signal, said program comprising:

code for receiving a biometric signal;

code for storing the biometric signal received by the biometric sensor in the database as an administrator signature if the database of biometric signatures is empty;

code for, if an administrator signature has been stored in the database, classifying a legitimate sequence of biometric signals, each matching the administrator signature, as control information; and

code for performing at least one of (a) amending information stored in the database depending upon the control information, and (b) classifying a subsequent

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biometric signal as one of an administrator signature and an ordinary signature depending upon the control information.